GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:701
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2005
FIRE IN ORDNANCE FACTORY CHANDA
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Board of Inquiry (BoI) has been constituted to investigate fire incident which took place on January 31, 2005 in Ordnance Factory, Chanda;

(b) if so, whether the said Board has submitted its inquiry report;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir.

(c) The Board of Inquiry has assessed initiation of fire from waste explosive as probable cause of accident. Total 53 nos. of Bomb 81 MM HE had exploded due to fire and the amount of loss has been assessed as Rs. 18.65 lakhs. One person sustained injury. No official has been found guilty for the accident. Board of Inquiry has recommended the following 8 remedial measures:

1. Containers for N-17 Mark-1 in Unit-VII and that of in unit-IX are to be identified to avoid mix up.

2. Waste Propellant/Explosive to be kept immersed in water and CE Waste to be kept in oil and disposed off twice in a week. A record is to be maintained.

3. During non-working period of the explosive buildings suitable action to be taken by OF Chanda for vigilance at proper places.

4. The buildings wherever very easily ignitable material like augmenting cases charges, propellant filling operation is being carried out, possibility of introducing automatic fire detection and automatic water drenching system to be explored to prevent the mass fire.

5. The glass panels of the windows must be fitted with wire-meshed glass.

6. One more static Tank to be provided in vicinity of buildings 273 and 276 to ensure adequate water in case of any accidents/emergency.

7. Longer lunch break period to be avoided. Building to be manned during lunch period.

8. OF Chanda may explore the possibilities that no one is permitted to enter inside the factory gate with fire creating items like match box/lighter etc.

Recommendation No. 1,2,3,7 & 8 have been implemented. Recommendation No. 5 is under implementation and the recommendations No. 4 and 6 are being examined in consultation with Board of Inquiry.

(d) Question does not arise.